A WEEKLY INFORMATION DIGEST

JOHN GARRETT, EDITOR
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World Council of Churches Presidents Issue 1957 Whitsun Message

The seven presidents of the World Council of Churches have sent a special Pentecost message to the 165 member-denominations of the council, to be read from the pulpits of the world on June 9.

The message reads as follows:

"As Presidents of the World Council of Churches we greet our brethren in the member churches.

On this birthday of the Church of Christ we should remind one another that the Church was born when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the apostles, constraining them to proclaim to all around them the mighty works of God. Thus the last promise of the risen Lord was fulfilled:

> 'You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.' Acts 1:9 (R.S.V.)

To be the Church is to live by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is this power which we need if we are to find repentance and renewal of life. It is this power which enables the Church to give hope to the hopeless.

The nations are looking with fear to an unknown future. Grave problems of human relationships which cause the suffering of millions of our fellow-men remain unsolved. This is not because the necessary intelligence is lacking, or even some general goodwill. It is rather because men have not the power to do the good that they know they ought to do.

In closing the inconclusive Disarmament Conference held some twenty years ago the chairman said: 'In such a situation as the present nothing can help us but faith... The obstacles are not in the world around us, but in our minds and hearts. We will the end, but we do not will it hard enough to risk the means.' That is still our position today. We long for true international understanding and peace, but we cannot bring ourselves to pay the price. In the churches we find a real desire for renewal, for unity, for evangelism, but not enough readiness to consecrate ourselves so fully to the service of Christ that we become the willing instruments of His saving work. Now Whitsun comes to tell us that the one and only way in which our weakness can be transformed into strength is by receiving the life-giving Spirit which turned disappointed disciples into courageous witnesses.

We therefore beseech you, brethren, so to wait upon God that we may be endued with power from on high. We are often in such a hurry to do things for God that we forget God himself and do not wait for the Spirit. 'Not by might nor by power, but by my spirit' says the Lord of Hosts.

May the fellowship in Christ which we have in the World Council show the nations that there exists a People of God which lives in the strength of the Holy Spirit. May it render clear witness to the ends of the earth, that this Spirit really does enable man to carry out God's gracious plan for His children."

A WEEKLY INFORMATION DIGEST

JOHN CATES, Editor
M. JOSEPH BRADSHAW, Managing Editor ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION $3.00

No. 17 Twenty-fourth Year May 1, 1971

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World Council of Churches Consultation Group (WCC) Minutes Meeting

The seven presidents of the World Council of Churches have sent a special pastoral message to the 163 member-denominations of the Council, to be read over the radio of the world on April 2.

The message reads as follows:

"As Presidents of the World Council of Churches we speak our greetings to the Easter churches.

Christian students of the Church of Christ we should realize only another time that God's love has come into fully equipped warehouses or the marketplace, concentrating large on providing to all around them the strength-giving of God. Thus the last prophecy of Jesus here was fulfilled:

"The evil-doers crucify him, the blind and lame and deaf are healed, and the poor are given the good news. Blessed are those who do not lose faith in Jesus and remain at his side."

We are now called on to live by the power of him who is Christ. It is the same power that is at work in Christ's resurrection and renewal of life. It is this power which we are called to serve and bear to this day.

The nations are today seeking peace in unknown ways. Great numbers of people are seeking peace, the ending of killing of millions of our children-in-Christ and in our hearts the necessary unwillingness to believe or even accept peace with justice. Little matter because man has power to do the same and bring peace to life.

In obedience the teachings of Christ, we have to be ready to serve God and his people in a situation of tension as the Council initiated the talks in the 1960's. The nations are not in the world around us, but in our minds and hearts. We will be ready, but we are not ready enough to allow the message. Just as Christ and Christian leaders in the Church have contributed to the peace and peace for the people, so the Church must be ready to be a real leader for peace. We are called to be ready to be a strong witness to the world, to be a witness for peace, to be a witness of love and hope, to be a witness of the suffering Christ, to be a witness of the suffering people, to be a witness of the suffering Christ, to be a witness of the suffering people, to be a witness of the suffering Christ, to be a witness of the suffering people

The message is signed by the presidents of the World Council of Churches who represent different Christian traditions and different parts of the world. They are: the Very Reverend John Baillie, former principal of New College, Edinburgh, Scotland, Presbyterian; Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Methodist; the Bishop of Chichester, the Right Rev. G. K. A. Bell, United Kingdom, Anglican; Bishop F.K. Otto Dibelius, Bishop of Berlin and president of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany; Juhanon Mar Thoma, Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, South India; Archbishop Michael, New York, of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America; and the Right Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, New York, presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. E.P.S., Geneva

PUERTO RICO — IMC Caribbean Conference

(San German) - Missionaries and church leaders in the Caribbean will come together for the first time on an area-wide interdenominational basis May 17-24. The International Missionary Council, in cooperation with the World Council of Christian Education, is sponsoring a Caribbean Consultation at San German, Puerto Rico, on the campus of Inter-American University.

About fifty delegates are expected to attend the meeting. Among the islands to be represented are Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Trinidad, Antigua, and Barbados. There will be guests from Great Britain, Canada, the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, British Guiana, and Surinam.

Evangelism, Christian education and youth work, and family life are among the subjects for consideration. The training of the ministry, "ordained and lay," is to be discussed. The group will consider the future of cooperation among the various Protestant churches operating in the Caribbean.

Main purpose of the meeting, according to Dr. J. W. Decker of the IMC, is to "make a beginning in contacts, fellowship, and mutual exchange of experience and insights between the Christian forces in various parts of the region." A further objective is "to chart next steps to continue this process."

Speakers on the opening program include Dr. Alfonso Rodriguez of the Evangelical Seminary, Matanzas, Cuba, and the Rev. Wilfred Easton, Methodist Missionary Society of London, England. A mass meeting is planned for San German in conjunction with the conference. The Puerto Rican Evangelical Council will co-sponsor the event.

Mr. E. J. Bingle, a member of the IMC research secretariat, London, England, will be present at the conference. Russell F. Harrison will represent the World Council of Christian Education. E.P.S., Geneva

GERMANY — Kirchentag Theme Emphasized

Instead of the 1957 German Kirchentag (Church Day) scheduled for August in Thuringia, all churches in Eastern and Western Germany will hold special services on October 27 on the theme of the Kirchentag, "The Lord is God, the Lord is God". On the same day delegates from all the German "Landeskirchen" will attend services in all the churches in Berlin. In conjunction with this, reports will be exchanged concerning the local Kirchentags organized by the local churches or by the Landeskirchen. The day will close with a public gathering for all the delegates from both parts of Germany and from the churches in Berlin.

Dr. Reinhold von Thadden, Kirchentag founder and director, said he had not received a reply from Karl Maron, minister for Home Affairs in the DDR, to a letter he had written on April 8 stating his position with regard to the political conditions for organizing the Kirchentag in the DDR this year (see EPS No. 15/16).

A statement issued by the Kirchentag Committee and church representatives from the DDR in Berlin April 16 said:

"After attempting for months to negotiate with the government of the German Democratic Republic about Kirchentag, it imposed conditions on the Kirchentag Committee, some of which would have turned the Kirchentag into a political issue. All our requests and endeavors to have these conditions modified were unsuccessful. It is therefore impossible

The measure is signed by the presidents of the World Council of Churches and various different Christian traditions and different parts of the world. They are the Very Reverend John Macquarrie, former principal of Ian College, Edinburgh, Scotland; Presbyterian; Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri, Roman Rites, Argentina, Episcopal; the Bishop of Chichester, the Right Rev. G. K. A. Bell, United Kingdom, Anglican; Bishop Fritz Dibelius, Bishop of Berlin and president of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany; Hubmor Mar Thoma, Metropolitan of the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar, South India; Archbishop Michael, New York, of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America; and the Right Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill, New York, presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the U.S.A.

S.P.S., Geneva

PUERTO RICO

WCC Conference Conference

(San Juan) - Ecumenicals and church leaders in the Caribbean will come together for the first time on an area-wide interdenominational basis May 17-20, the International Ministerial Council, in cooperation with the World Council of Churches Education, is sponsoring a Caribbean Consultation at Sta Teresa, Puerto Rico, on the campus of Inter-American University.

About fifty delegates are expected to attend the meeting. Among the islands to be represented are Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Trinidad, Antigua, and Barbados. There will be guests from Great Britain, Canada, the United States, Mexico, Costa Rica, British Guiana, and Surinam.

Evangelism, Christian education and youth work, and family life are among the subjects for consideration. The training of the ministry, "ordained and lay," is to be discussed. The group will consider the future of cooperation among the various Protestant churches operating in the Caribbean.

Main purpose of the meeting, according to Dr. J. W. Decker of the IMC, is to "aim at a beginning in contacts, fellowship, and mutual exchange of experiences and insights between the Christian forces in various parts of the region." A further objective is "to clarify ways to continue this process."

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S.P.S., Geneva

GERMANY

Kirchentag Times Emphasized

Instead of the 1957 German Kirchentag (Church Day) scheduled for August in Frankfurt, all churches in Eastern and Western Germany will hold special services on October 27 on the theme of the Kirchentag, "The Lord is God, the Lord is One". On the same day delegates from all the German "Landeskirchen" will attend services in all the churches in Berlin. In conjunction with this, reports will be exchanged concerning the local Kirchentags organized by the local churches or by the Landeskirchen. The day will close with a public gathering for all the delegates from both parts of Germany and from the churches in Berlin.

Dr. Reinhold von Thadden, Kirchentag Manager and director, said in his report received a reply from Karl Barth, minister for Home Affairs in the GDR, to a letter he had written on April 5 asking his assistance with regard to the political problems in organizing the Kirchentag in the GDR this year (see Ecu No. 15/56).

A statement issued by the Kirchentag Committee and church representatives from FRG in South Adult is said:

"After attempting for months to negotiate with the government of the German Democratic Republic about Kirchentag, it imposed conditions on the Kirchentag Committee, some of which would have turned the Kirchentag into a political issue. All our requests and

Kirchentag belongs to the Church and to its Lord. The message of the Church cannot be shackled. The Kirchentag is God's gift to our generation. The Church has discovered afresh that it has to do its work in the world, and that God's people must meet together and remain together."

The Committee asked the Kirchentag leaders to cooperate with the local Kirchentag committees, to arrange that special study be given in all the member churches of the EKD to themes of the Kirchentag and the biblical passages on which it intended to concentrate, through the organization of local and regional conferences.

In a radio address, Dr. von Thadden summed up the decision to cancel the Kirchentag: "Although we cannot hold an all-German meeting this summer as planned, we will not lose courage; we will go on patiently working and looking out for other opportunities." He was referring to the lay conferences to be held in the autumn.

"Wherever true fellowship exists," said Dr. von Thadden, "there is room for the Church on both sides of the frontier." E.P.S., Geneva

A Roman Catholic commentary

The Roman Catholic weekly paper, the "Rheinische Merkur", comments on the cancellation of the all-German rally of lay Protestants in Thuringia and how this may affect German Catholics. It is planned to hold a Catholic conference in Eastern Germany in 1958.

If the East German government should adopt a friendlier attitude towards the Catholics, writes the paper, they should not accept what had been refused to their Protestant brethren. The "Rheinische Merkur" thinks it possible that the government of Eastern Germany may be trying to split the solidarity which exists between the Christian confessions, by discriminatory treatment. "The Catholics would not agree to this," says the paper; this solidarity between Christians is one of the "difficult achievements which form the basis of a better future for us all." E.P.S., Geneva

POLAND

WCC Representative Visits Churches

Dr. Howard Schomer, WCC secretary for Inter-Church Aid in Europe, returned on April 19 from an eight-day visit to Polish churches. It was the first time a representative of the World Council of Churches had visited Poland since 1948.

Each group offered him an opportunity to become personally acquainted with its development over the last years and its work at the present hour. In a plenary session of the Polish Ecumenical Council, Dr. Schomer was asked in turn to tell the story of the World Council development since the First Assembly in 1948.

Seven denominations belong to the Ecumenical Council of the Churches of Poland, Dr. Schomer reported, of which two are to date member churches of the World Council of Churches. The council has recently appointed a commission which is to prepare a formal constitution and by-laws looking toward its recognition as an association under Polish law.

A representative of a second commission just named by the council will attend the Annual Consultation of the WCC's Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees at Eastbourne, England, from May 31 to June 5. This commission will present requests for inter-church aid from all the member churches of the Polish Ecumenical Council.

Dr. Schomer reported that the churches belonging to the Ecumenical Council are: the Augsburg Evangelical Church, with 175,000 members; the Polish Catholic (Old Catholic) Church, 95,400; the Methodist Church, with membership reports varying from 15,000 to 20,000; the Mariavites, 33,000; the United Evangelical Church, 7,250; the Baptist Church, 6,000; and the Reformed Church, 5,000. More than 29 million of the 30 million people in Poland are baptized Roman Catholics. The autocephalous Orthodox Church in Poland, which maintains fraternal relations with the Polish Ecumenical Council, has risen in strength since the end of the war, due to population movements, from 300,000 to 500,000.

The United Evangelical Church is the result of a recent merger of five small mission groups, it is reported. They are: the Free Brethren, the Entschiedene Christen, the Evangelical Christians, the Pentecostalists and the Church of Christ.

Broadcasting belongs to the church and to all its lands. The message of the Church cannot be shackled. The Broadcasting is doing quite to our advantage. The Church has discovered afresh that it has to go to the world in the world, and that God's people must work together and round together."

The Committee noted the Broadcasting Leaders to cooperate with the Local Broadcasting Committees, to arrange that annual study be given in all the member countries of the EBU to themes of the Firbroadcasting and the religious programme which is intended to accompany through the organization of local and regional conferences.

In a radio address, Dr. von Thadden warned of the dangers to expect the Broadcasting "although we cannot hold in all-German existing this manner as planned, we will not too compromised, we will go on practically working and finding out the other opportunities". He was preparing to the lay ministrants to be held in the United.

"Wherever this Christian crisis," said Dr. von Thadden, "there is room for the Church on both sides of the frontiers."

K.P.S., Geneva

A Swiss Catholic commentary

The Swiss Catholic weekly paper, the "Schweizerische Kirche", commenting on the consultation of the all-German unity of the Protestants in Darmstadt and the Bonn Conference, writes the opinion of the Bonn Conference to Western Germany in 1945.

If the Bonn German governments should that a Protestantism existing towards the Catholics, writes the paper, they should a most very not been willing to this Protestant Protestant. The Catholics Warned that is possible that the government of Eastern Germany may be trying to gain the majority which exists between the Catholics and Protestants by clandestinely bargaining. "The Catholics which are strong in Saxony, the paper, data activity between Christians is one of the difficult advantages which from the basis of a better future for us all."

B.P.S., Geneva

WCC Representative Visits Czechoslovakia

Dr. Werner Schmidt, who secretary for Inter-Church Aid in Geneva, returned on April 10 from an eight-day visit to Czech countries. It was the first time a representative of the World Council, or Europe had visited Prague since 1938.

Each group offered him an open hospitality to become acquainted with the situation over the last years and the work at the present time. In a press meeting of the Prague Ecumenical Council, Dr. Schmidt was asked in turn to tell the story of the World Council development since the First Assembly in 1948.

Seven denominations belong to the Ecumenical Council of the Churches of Bohemia. Dr. Schmidt reported, it could be said to have become members of the World Council of Churches. The council has recently appointed a committee which is to prepare a church constitution and by-laws including the interpretation of an association under Civil law.

A representative of a church commission just given by the council at Kirchen the Annual Conventions of the CCFD, Dr. Schmidt, Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees at Scarborough, England, from May 31 to June 6. The commission will present proposals for inter-church aid from all the member churches of the British Ecumenical Council.

Dr. Schmidt reported that the churches belonging to the Ecumenical Council were the majority Protestant Bohemia, with 1,400,000 members, the Czechoslovakian Church (Old Catholics) Church, 95,000; the Baptist Church, 30,000, and the Methodist Church, 15,000; the Moravian Church, 10,000; the Hussite Church, 7,000; the Czech Church, 6,000; and the Silesian Church, 3,000. Also from 22 million of the 30 million people in Poland are baptized Roman Catholics. The correspondence Orthodox Church in Poland, which maintains fraternal relations with the British Ecumenical Council, has close to three the and of the war, due to population movements, from 300,000 to 30,000.

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Dr. Schmidt said that the Ecumenical Council in the Czechoslovakia Church is very active in the Czechoslovakian Church, the Czechoslovakian Church, the Czechoslovakian Church,

The Ecumenical Council held its reconstituting meeting a few months ago. Since then regular work conferences have been held and theological and practical questions have been dealt with in the form of reports and conclusions, and a special theological department has been set up. Still under discussion are two themes, "Proselytism as an ecumenical problem", and "The role of women in church life."

During his visit, Dr. Schomer had a conference with Director Lech of the ministry of cults in the Polish Democratic Republic, who made it clear that the policy of his government is to guarantee equality of rights to all faiths regardless of the size of the different churches.

On Palm Sunday Dr. Schomer spoke at Holy Trinity Lutheran church in Warsaw to a congregation of 500. In September 1956, this building was returned to the church by the government. It had been taken over late in 1950 with the intention of devoting it to secular purposes. On Palm Sunday afternoon Dr. Schomer preached at an ecumenical service in the Reformed church in Warsaw in which representatives of all the member churches of the Polish Ecumenical Council took part. E.P.S., Geneva

GERMANY

Strong Church Support for Nuclear Scientists

(Berlin) - "We are deeply moved that German scientists have put conscience before all other considerations, basing their decision on a genuine scientific ethic and on their ultimate sense of responsibility."

This statement was the reaction of eight church leaders and theologians in Western Germany to the protest made by West German nuclear physicists against arming German troops with atomic weapons.

A telegram was sent to Professor Otto Hahn, director of the Max Planck Institute in Göttingen, by Dr. Martin Niemöller (Wiesbaden), Dr. Hans Stempel (Speyer), Propst Heinrich Grüber (Berlin), Dr. Gustav Heinemann (Essen), Professor Helmuth Gollwitzer and Professors Hans Joachim Iwand (Bonn), Heinrich Vogel and Martin Fischer (Berlin).

The telegram said: "Recognizing that the production and use of weapons of mass destruction cannot be justified whatever the end in view, we thank the 18 nuclear scientists for the service which they have rendered to the German people and to humanity by warning them against arming the German military forces with atomic weapons."

A similar statement was made by the deans of the six theological faculties in Eastern Germany and the Protestant bishops in the German Democratic Republic. It is signed by Professor Heinrich Vogel (Berlin), Dr. Arno Lehmann (Halle), Dr. Hans Bardtke (Leipzig), Pastor Werner Schmauch (Greifswald), Dr. Gerhard Gloege (Jena) and Dr. Gottfried Quell (Rostock), and reads:

"We thank the nuclear scientists in Western Germany for their warning against arming the German military forces with nuclear weapons. We also thank the nuclear scientists in Eastern Germany for their warning against the continuation of atom-bomb experiments. We wholeheartedly agree with the Synod of the EKD and with the ecumenical movement as a whole in radically condemning weapons of mass destruction. They are misuses of God's gifts of human intelligence and of the forces of nature. They are a betrayal of man, who is created in God's image and for whom Christ died and rose from the dead. They are blasphemies against the goodness of the Creator. We warn people against collaborating in the use of these weapons or giving way to irresponsible indifference and resignation about them. These weapons are a menace to the whole world, not only in the present generation but also to our children and our children's children. Everyone must play his part in ensuring that these weapons of mass destruction are banned and abolished by all nations."

The Church Fellowship in the Rhineland, which has a membership of 140 pastors and many lay Christians, at its recent conference at Wermelskirchen, discussed the protest of the nuclear scientists in Western Germany and once again drew attention to the message of the World Council of Churches at Evanston in 1954, and to the theological declaration of the Synod of the EKD in June, 1956. "We are going to stir up the conscience of the people under our care, so that they perceive that the production or use of weapons of mass destruction cannot be justified, no matter what the purpose," they said.

The Economical Council will its recommendations meeting a [illegible] one. Since then regular work conferences have been held and [illegible] have been dealt with in the form of records and conclusions, and a special [illegible] lawyers has been set up. Still under discussion are two topics "[illegible] economical problem", and "The role of women in social life."

During this visit, Dr. Schmoer had a conference with President Lenz of the Academy of Sciences in the German Democratic Republic, and says it also has the task of government in to guarantee equality of rights to all citizens regardless of race or [illegible] different colours.

On Pain Sunday Dr. Schmoer spoke at Holy Trinity Lutheran church in Kowalik in a congregation of 500. At Eastertide 1950, this church is to be restored to its [illegible] ownership. It was then taken over late in 1949 or so for the purpose of [illegible] it a secular purpose. On Palm Sunday afternoon Dr. Schmoer visited at a [illegible] in the Bethanien church in Wismar in which representatives of all the [illegible] the Polish Economical Council took part.

S.P.S., Geneva

Germany

Strong Church Support for Nuclear Disarmament

(Berlin) - "We are deeply moved that German civilians have put conscience before all other considerations, leading their decision on a question concerning the state and on whose ultimate aims of responsibility."

This statement was the reaction of eight church leaders and theologians in Western Germany to the protest made by West German nuclear physicists against arming Germany with atomic weapons.

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The telegram stated "recognizing that the production and use of weapons of mass destruction cannot be justified whatever the end in view, we thank the 18 nuclear scientists for the protest which has been conducted in the German people and to inform by warning them against arming the German military forces with atomic weapons."

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"We thank the nuclear scientists in Western Germany for their warning against arming the German military forces with nuclear weapons. We also think the nuclear scientists in Eastern Germany for their warning against the continuing of atom-bomb experiments. We wholeheartedly agree with the Synod of the EKD and with the ecumenical movement as a whole in resolutely rejecting weapons of mass destruction. They are always a sign of God's grace of human intelligence and of the fear of God. They are a testimony of man, who is created in God's image and for whom Christ died and rose from the dead. They are blasphemies against the creation of the Creator. We were people who had [illegible] in the use of these weapons or giving way in international institutions and negotiations about them. These weapons are a reason to the whole world, not only in the present generation but also in our children and our children's children. Everyone that [illegible] may be [illegible] are involved in all nations."

The Church Militant in the Rhineland which has a membership of 1[illegible] parishes and many lay Christians, at its recent conference at Wuppertal-Barmen, discussed the problem of the nuclear scientists in Western Germany and took steps also to the removal of the World Council of Churches at Evanston in 1954, and to the Ecumenical Conference of the Churches at the Hill in Ahwa, 1954. "We are going to visit up the conference of the people under our care, so that they realize that the production or use of weapons of mass destruction cannot be justified, no matter what the purpose," they said.

"We have no right to menace the lives of millions of people, even for the sake of freedom or social justice, for life belongs to God." It was an illusion to expect weapons of mass destruction to maintain life, peace and freedom. The crucified and risen Christ was the Lord of all the powers, including the powers of the 20th century. The group pledged themselves "not to take a single step in the direction of atomic armament." E.P.S., Geneva

SOUTH AFRICA — African Priest Preaches in White Church

A step described as one of "major importance to freedom of worship in South Africa" took place in Capetown early last month when for the first time in the history of the Dutch Reformed Church an African clergyman preached to a white congregation.

More than 800 whites crowded into a small suburban Dutch Reformed church in Capetown to hear the Rev. William Xaluva of Kokstad. Many Dutch Reformed clergymen and members of parliament were in the congregation.

At the same time, Anglican authorities put a sign in front of St. George's cathedral in Capetown reading: "This cathedral is open to all men and women of all races to all services at all times."

The cathedral is only a stone's throw from the House of Assembly where the controversial Native Laws Amendment Bill just passed its third and final reading, despite opposition from many churches and the National Christian Council. The bill must still be passed by the Senate. The bill gives the government the right to prohibit Africans from worshipping with whites. (See EPS Nos. 10, 11, 13, 14 and 15/16.)

The Very Rev. T. J. Savage, dean of Capetown, said the cathedral sign was "not put up as a protest against anything but as a positive statement of where we stand and have stood in the past. It represents the policy of this church since 33 A.D. We thought it a good time to remind people of it."

At a protest meeting against the legislation, Dean Savage warned the government that "its wrong laws on apartheid are forcing law-abiding citizens to break the law."

In Durban 2,000 whites and non-whites, attending a protest meeting arranged by a committee of Christian laymen, adopted a resolution saying that the government "has no rightful authority to enact legislation which in any way detracts from the freedom of man's converse with God." E.P.S., Geneva

NEW ZEALAND — Maoris Want Church Union Speeded Up

The Maori Section of the National Council of Churches of New Zealand has issued a statement urging that church union in New Zealand be speeded up, pointing out that "nowhere in New Zealand does the confusion of our divisions rest more heavily than in the Maori field."

The Maori people, original inhabitants of New Zealand, form an important section of the population. They participate actively in church and political life.

Represented in the section are Maori groups belonging to the Church of England in New Zealand, the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregational and other major Protestant groups and a large number of small sects.

The statement, which will be discussed by Maori and NCC officials on July 23, stressed that union among the parent churches would accelerate union among the Maori groups.

"We appeal to our leaders, for the sake of a Christian New Zealand, to seek God's guidance toward greater unity as an urgent, pressing matter," the statement said. "We share with the younger churches in the mission field of the world a growing impatience with the slowness of movement among the parent churches toward union."

Members of four denominations in New Zealand - the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational churches and the Associated Church of Christ - are to vote on the question of union in June. But the vote will be on principle only. E.P.S., Geneva

"We have no right to menace the lives of millions of people, even for the sake of freedom or social justice, for life belongs to God." It was an illusion to expect peoples or mass destruction to maintain life, peace and freedom. The crucified and risen Christ was the Lord of all the powers, including the powers of the 20th century. The group pledged themselves "not to take a single step in the direction of atomic armament."

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More than 800 whites crowded into a small suburban Dutch Reformed church in Capetown to hear the Rev. William Xaluva of Kokstad. Many Dutch Reformed clergymen and members of parliament were in the congregation.

At the same time, Anglican authorities put a sign in front of St. George's cathedral in Capetown reading: "This cathedral is open to all men and women of all races to all services at all times."

The cathedral is only a stone's throw from the House of Assembly where the controversial Native Laws Amendment Bill just passed its third and final reading, despite opposition from many churches and the National Christian Council. The bill must still be passed by the Senate. The bill gives the government the right to prohibit Africans from worshipping with whites. (See KPR Nos. 10, 12, 13, 14 and 15/16.)

The Very Rev. T. G. Savage, dean of Capetown, said the cathedral sign was "not put up as a protest against anything but as a positive statement of where we stand and have stood in the past. It represents the policy of this church since 33 A.D. We thought it a good time to remind people of it."

At a protest meeting against the legislation, Dean Savage warned the government that "its wrong laws on apartheid are forcing law-abiding citizens to break the law."

In Durban 2 000 whites and non-whites, attending a protest meeting arranged by a committee of Christian laymen, adopted a resolution saying that the government "has no spiritual authority to enact legislation which in any way detracts from the freedom of man's converse with God."

E.P.S., Geneva

NEW ZEALAND

Maori's Want Church Union Speeded Up

The Maori Section of the National Council of Churches of New Zealand has issued a statement urging that church union in New Zealand be speeded up, pointing out that "nowhere in New Zealand does the continuation of our divisions rest more heavily than in the Maori field."

The Maori people, original inhabitants of New Zealand, form an important section of the population. They participate actively in church and political life.

Represented in the section are Maori groups belonging to the Church of Christ in New Zealand, the Methodist, Presbyterian, Baptist, Congregational and other major Protestant groups and a large number of small sects.

The statement, issued with the endorsement by Maori and NCC officials on May 23, proposes that the parent churches would accelerate union among the Maori groups.

"We appeal to our leaders, for the sake of a Christian New Zealand, to seek God's guidance toward greater unity as an urgent, pressing matter," the statement said. "We are with the younger churches in the mission field of the world a growing impatience with the slowness of movement among the parent churches toward union."

Members of four denominations in New Zealand - the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational churches and the Associated Church of Christ - are to vote on the question of union in June. But the vote will be on principle only.

E.P.S., Geneva